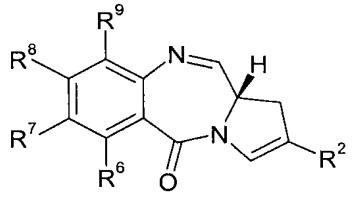
Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently amended) A compound of formula (**I**):



(I)

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts, solvates, ~~chemically protected forms, or~~ ~~and~~ prodrugs thereof, wherein:

R^6, R^7 and R^9 are independently selected from H, R, OH, OR, SH, SR, NH_2, NHR, NHRR', nitro, Me_3Sn and halo;

where R and R' are independently selected from ~~optionally substituted~~ C_{1-7} alkyl, C_{3-20} heterocyclyl and C_{5-20} aryl groups;

R^8 is selected from H, R, OH, OR, SH, SR, NH_2, NHR, NHRR', nitro, Me_3Sn and halo, or the compound is a dimer with each monomer being of formula (**I**), where the R^8 groups of each monomers form together a dimer bridge having the formula -X-R''-X- linking the monomers, where R'' is a C_{3-12} alkylene group, which chain may be interrupted by one or more heteroatoms[[,]] ~~e.g.~~ selected from the group consisting of O, S, and NH, and/or aromatic rings[[,]] ~~e.g.~~ selected from the group consisting of benzene and ~~or~~ pyridine, and each X is independently selected from O, S, or NH;

or any pair of adjacent groups from R^6 to R^9 together form a group $-O-(CH_2)_p-O-$, where p is 1 or 2; and

R^2 is selected from:

(i) a napthyl group, optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halo, C_{1-7} alkyl, ether, and C_{5-20} aryl;

(ii) a thiophenyl or furanyl group, optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halo, C_{1-7} alkyl, ether, and C_{5-20} aryl; and

(iii) a phenyl group substituted by:

(a) one or more chloro or fluoro groups;

(b) an ethyl or propyl group;

(c) a 4-t-butyl group;

(d) a 2-methyl group; or

(e) two methyl groups in the 2- and 6- positions.

2. (Currently amended) A compound according to claim 1, wherein R^2 is selected from:

(i) a napthyl group, optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of halo, C_{1-7} alkyl, ether, and C_{5-20} aryl;

(ii) a thiophenyl or furanyl group, optionally substituted by one or more substituent selected from the group consisting of halo, C_{1-7} alkyl, ether, and C_{5-20} aryl; and

(iii) a phenyl group substituted by:

(a) one or more chloro or fluoro groups;

(b) an ethyl or propyl group;

(c) a 4-t-butyl group; or

(d) a 2-methyl group.

3. (Currently amended) A compound according to claim 2, wherein R^2 is selected from:

(i) a napthyl group, optionally substituted by one or more substituent selected from the group consisting of halo, C_{1-7} alkyl, ether, and C_{5-20} aryl;

(ii) a thiophenyl group, optionally substituted by one or more substituent selected from the group consisting of halo, C_{1-7} alkyl, ether, and C_{5-20} aryl; and

(iii) a phenyl group substituted by:

(a) one or more chloro or fluoro groups;

(b) an ethyl or propyl group;

(c) a 4-t-butyl group; or

(d) a 2-methyl group.

4. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 1, wherein R^9 is H.

5. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 1, wherein R^6 is H.

6. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 1, wherein R^7 and R^8 (when the compound is not a dimer) are selected from OMe and OCH_2Ph.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition containing a compound of claim 1, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently amended) A method of treatment of melanomas, or breast, renal, or lung cancer, ~~a proliferative disease~~, comprising administering to a subject in need of treatment a therapeutically-effective amount of a compound of claim 1.